

Skate Zine

A skateboarder is captured mid-air, performing a trick on a wooden ramp. The skater is wearing a light blue t-shirt, red shorts, a yellow helmet, and red elbow pads. They are also wearing white socks with red and blue stripes and white sneakers. The background shows a clear blue sky and some green foliage.

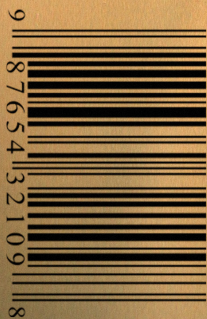
INTERVIEWS!

MARK TRAWLER, THE APRIL BABIES AND MANY MORE...

HISTORY OF THE ZOO PARK

NEW WEEKLY COMICS

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Photo by Alex Williams

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SKATEBOARDING Magazine

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ABOUT US

We are a group of University of Plymouth, Media Arts students. Our project explores the history of the skate park and its contemporary users. Inspired by the skate craze which defined the 70's / 80's, our work features a similar aesthetic to the zines which were popular at the time. We hope you enjoy reading it, the editors: Stephanie Anjo, Mattia Tafel, Siama Hannan, Niamh Tyler Marshall.



Long Lasting
Community Project



Photos by Alex Williams

the very Boring History of the Skatepark

Plymouth zoo was located in Central Park, at the end of Home Park. Upon its opening in April 1962, it attracted around 13,000 visitors in the first 3 days. At the peak of its popularity, the park would reach over 50,000 visitors a year. The zoo itself took just 7 months to build and had a range of exotic animals, including Percy the Pelican, who would follow visitors around the park.

Other animals included pumas, lions, tigers, elephants, zebras, rhinos, hippos, wallabies and birds. Archive photos from the time show the animals in close contact with people due to a lack of health and safety measures.

The zoo was also used as a quarantine place for animals before they were transported, as such, their enclosures were often very small which led to several complaints from members of the public. A considerable decline in visitors meant the zoo closed after 16 years.

Following its closure, the zoo skate park was opened by the Chipperfield Circus family in 1978. Skating was the new craze at the time, and it was believed that it would bring a lot of money. The zoo site with its sloping terrain was described as 'perfect' for this and other existing skate parks were studied at the time, integrating some of these features in the design.

The council was keen to get skateboarders off the street and relocated to a place where they could be supervised. There were several petitions prior to this, such as from Devonport residents, who requested that Plymouth Leisure Services Committee consider building an area for skateboarders adjacent to Morice Town School Playground.

Newspaper clippings from 1978 promoted the zoo skate park as the largest in Europe. In the first two weeks of its

opening, the park reached over 150 skaters a day. Skaters would pay 60p and spectators a 30p fee, with kids under 6 going in free.

The hire of boards and safety equipment was 25p, operating from 3:30 pm- 9 pm on weekdays and, 9:30 am – 9 pm on weekends. Not only did it attract a lot of attention due to the vast amount of space, it resembled the concrete parks in America and had a range of exciting features.

Notably, the 7m full pipe which was built by Tavistock Tank Company. The park accommodated both beginners and more advanced skaters, 'donut' was the beginners first step- this was once the sealion pool.

The giraffe pen was also turned into a freestyle beginner area, this consisted of 3 flat areas, each 10cm square and connected by a small slope. Down the hill was the 'Tiger bowl', 2 banana shaped rounded banks, one 7m long and the other 4m. These were placed to create half-pipe sections between themselves. Also a favourite amongst skaters was the mogul field, this consisted of 5 mogul bowls (1m tall) which were described as being placed irregularly in the arena. One newspaper page from the time suggested that the 'Walking Stick', "didn't quite make it as a half pipe". This was a run which was 25m long and varied in width from 2-3m.

The 'DZ' was a snake run which was approximately 35m down a line, with 2.5m deep bends. A snake run is also a feature which is seen in the existing skatepark today. There was a café in the middle of the zoo skate park and families were encouraged to sit on the greenery and even have a picnic.

Accounts from the time, particularly from Mark Lawer "Trawler", describe how some of the animals from the zoo remained for a few years of the

old zoo skate park.

This included the parrot aviary and a hippopotamus which remained in his pit for a few weeks before it was transported. Unfortunately, the skate craze was short-lived. By 1979-81, only a few dedicated skaters continued using the park and shortly after this, the park closed completely. Following its closure, a new skate park was not built until the 3rd of July 2004.

An old article by the BBC describes how skaters were being "nagged" at for practicing at civic centre, this is a key reason why the council wanted to build a specific space for these individuals- to get them off the streets and into a safe space. This was close to Plymouth Argyle Football Club and was previously known as the Mayflower Centre. The park cost £160,000, with a £100,000 contribution from Sport England. The skate park was demolished in 2010 to make way for the Life Centre. In 2011, plans to rebuild a skate park were approved by the council.

This was created by a company called freestyle, located between the leisure pools and Alma Road. One source mentioned how its obstacles were not the "most original" but there was "a lot of space between them, opening it up to a lot of line potential". It was fairly flat with the features mostly the same level, this may have been unchallenging for more advanced skaters but perhaps enjoyable for a younger community.

The official website describes the park structure: "The street section takes the form of a multi-level plaza and starting from the top opens with a platform with a flat bank leading down to the next section.

Alongside this bank is a stair set and down the middle of it is a hubba and rail. The next

section features an upwards curved ledge and another stair set, two hubbas and a rail. These lead into the bottom platform which is slightly more transition focused.

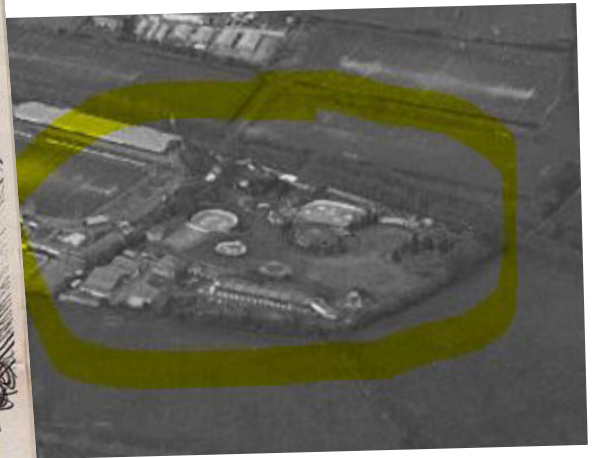
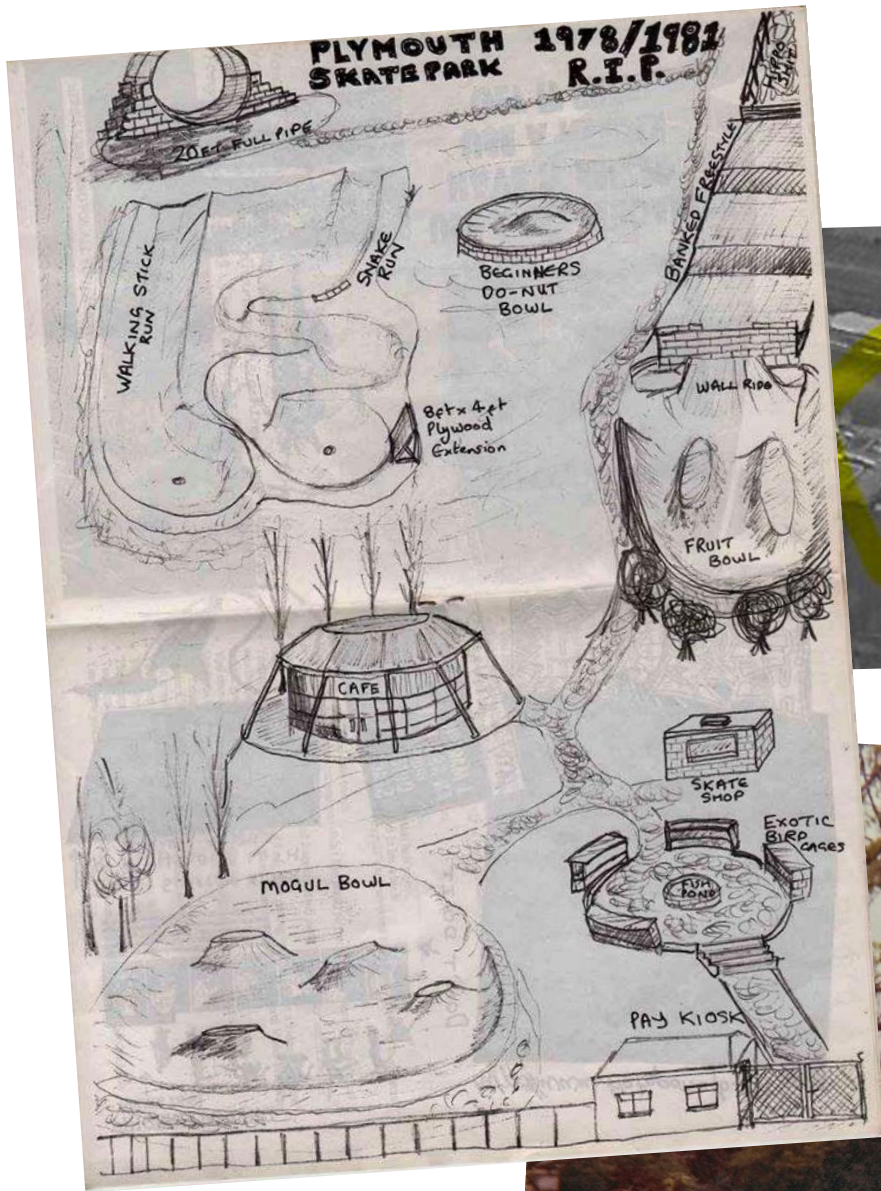
Along the side of these platforms is a raised area with a rail and a ledge that leads onto a staggered three ledge set leading down to the bottom area" Plans to renovate the skate park began in 2018, this was also carried out by Freestyle. This was designed with the possibility of competitions and event hosting in mind.

The Plymouth Herald expressed how its new structure was intended to "impress beginners and elite skaters alike with plans including an extension to the existing site with a snake run". In this way, the new design seems to have reverted to some of the old principles. Not only is the revamped space bigger, it also considers a range of skillset by including deeper obstacles which are challenging and a beginner bowl for those less confident. Just 5 weeks preceding its opening, there were issues with pollution.

An article describes how there were "copious" amounts of "empty plastic bottles, cigarette packets and shattered glass bottles" surrounding the skate park. This was met with "disappointment" from Councilor Sue Dann due to the efforts which were put in to revamp the park, particularly since there are two bins in the park.

The skate park today is utilized by both older and younger skaters or scooters, predominantly after school hours.

The skate park has had a remarkable journey since its opening in 1978, relocating and adapting its form, it will no doubt continue to improve and hold significance for individuals in the future.



Who's
That!

Mike Muir



Photos by Mike Muir

“Just to give this some context, let me tell you a bit about me and my skateboarding background. I’m 56, born and bred Janner but unfortunately, I had to leave Plymouth in 1996 as I was being made redundant in my job in the Dockyard. I then transferred with the job to live in the Midlands. I’m married to Samantha and we met many years ago, back in Plymouth. I miss it so much but still come back occasionally to see family and Argyle. I love skateboarding and was pretty good back in my day. I still have my skateboard from 45 years ago and yes I still ride it! I went to the skateboard park in Leamington with it last year and although I ached a lot, I could still ride some of the

parts of the park fairly well.

As you know, skateboarding has been around many decades. I started off with a plank of wood with a roller skate split in half and nailed to the wood.

This is how skateboards were for working class kids a long time ago. Then in the 1970’s skateboarding really took off.

I lived in Pennycross/Manadon area and loads of kids were getting ‘proper’ skateboards. My first step up was to a wooden manufactured deck board with rubber wheels which I think I bought with my own pocket money in a shop in town, I can’t quite remember where. I practiced on this then suddenly urethane wheels became available and they made rubber wheel skateboards look so poor.

These wheels were miles better. I bought my first urethane wheeled skateboard in a place called Jefferey’s sports shop which was at the top of town, sort of opposite the post office between Royal parade and New George street.

I paid so much a week to the shop from my pocket money until it was completely paid for then I could own the board which they kept aside. Some shops allowed you to do that then. Boards got better and Plymouth was becoming a massive skateboard place. It was thriving in the city. We had magazines which pictured American riding swimming pools (like the Z boys – but we didn’t know their names then) doing great tricks and we were all motivated by that to get better.

Although, we still tried to do the regular tricks like 180’s, 360’s, 720’s, wheelies, handstands and my best manoeuvre which was slalom. My next board was a huge step up and my main Christmas present, an aluminum ‘MRS’ board, Gecko 5 wheels and ACS 500 trucks (I still

ride the trucks and wheels now). This was bought from Steve Daniels surf shop on the Barbican. It later became Marine Sports. Loads of kids used to hang around there on our boards on Saturdays looking at the wheels and trucks etc like OJ's, Kryptons etc. Even the tyre people Pirelli made boards back then. I got so much better on this board but we didn't have skate park so mostly we would all ride around our own streets, playgrounds when schools were closed and up The Hoe, here we would lay coke cans out in a straight line to use as slalom and big crowds would gather to watch. Finally with the Zoo being closed Plymouth Council built a skateboard park using the land. It was brilliant and huge, so much bigger than most skateparks I've seen since. If you go down behind Home Park and look behind the Barn Park end you will get an idea of how big it was. It had loads of different areas of the park such as a huge concrete pipe (this was really hard to ride on the boards we used to ride, they weren't very stable), Deep bowls, slalom, a large area with a gentle slope with an angled concrete ramp. The ramp was my favourite and my claim to fame was that I could get 3 wheels out here, 3 wheels over the lip of the ramp which was a about 8-9 foot high I guess. I don't remember anyone doing 'airs' back in the day. The park had the old zoo cafeteria at its centre so you could get tea, drinks and snacks in there and lots of mums and dads would go in there when they brought their kids up to the park. My memory is sketchy here so sorry but I can't remember how much it cost to go in but I know it was good value and we'd spend all day there. However, aluminum boards weren't allowed so I had to have a new deck. This was a big problem for us as I



was from a poor family and buying a new deck was quite costly, but my parents managed it somehow. A new skateboard shop had opened by then called Plymouth Skateboard Centre. It was the last shop opposite the Newmarket Inn pub in town at Market way. It was buzzing in there and I still remember them fitting a new G&S fibreflex deck for me.

I still have this board now and love it.

G&S (Gordon & Smith) were huge at the time and I learned later that Stacey Peralta (Z boys) was a big part of promoting and using them. The park had first aid facilities I seem to remember and you had to wear helmets (I had a Cooper, one of the best looking), knee pads and elbow pads I think.

There were a lot of accidents up there though because it was a difficult park to ride. Plymouth with its surfing culture was a hot-bed for skaters though and I think we had some pretty good skateboarders in the city. I seem to remember a national magazine doing a feature on some of them.

I was good but not that good to be one of the best unfortunately. I can't remember how it all faded but I guess we all got older and stopped going, the craze just dropped for many years and the council couldn't afford to keep it going.

Unfortunately skateboards just seemed to disappear from the streets as other interests took over. Thankfully I kept mine and eventually got into surfing and diving which I still try to do occasionally too.

I'm a very young minded 56 year old so I intend to bring my skateboard down to Plymouth one day and ride a bit of the park I have seen in Central Park so be great to say hello if you are there.

Anyway, I enjoyed remembering all this and good luck with keeping the memories alive.

”

Mike Muir

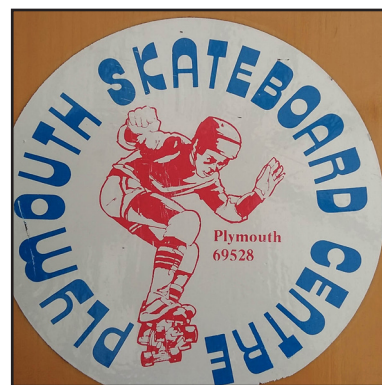


Photo by Alex Williams



Photo by Alex Williams

The Marvellous Adventure



Adventure of Muirmin



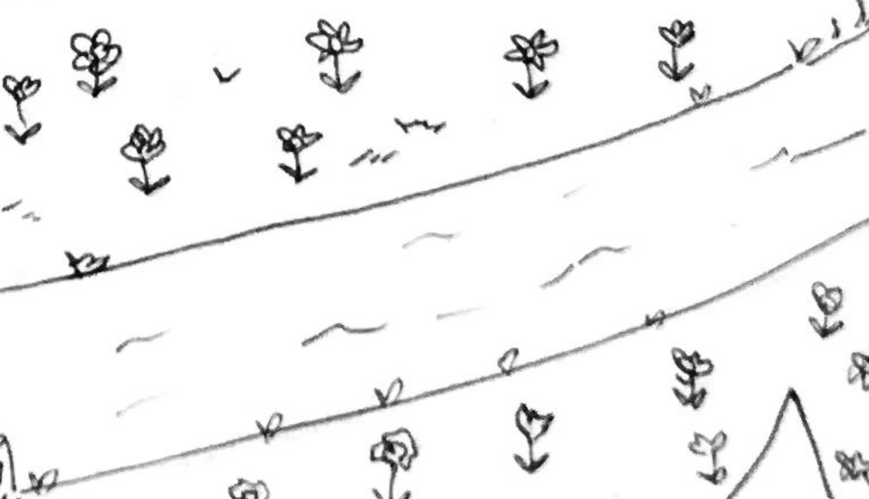
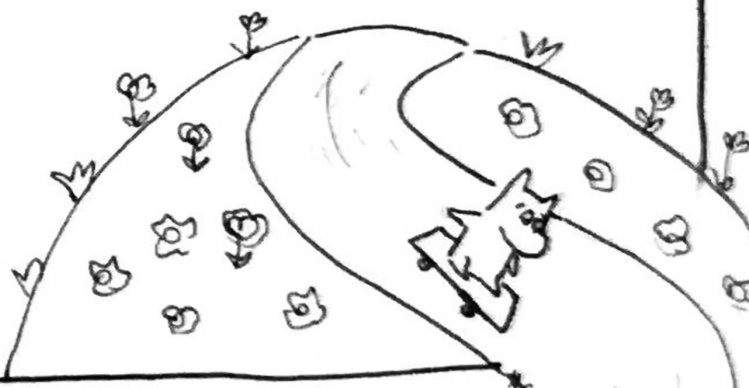
SKATEBOARD?
CAN'T AFFORD IT"



"SIGH... I WISH WE HAD
MONEY TO BUY A SKATEBOARD"



"I WANT EVERYTHING!"





Mark Lawer "TRAWLER"

Most Knowledgeable on the Plymouth Skate Scene!

"HI my name is Mark Lawer and since about 1982 everybody in skateboarding has known me as "Trawler" because I live in Plymouth, near the fishing boats.

It was a nickname given to me when i was on the British competition circuit.

I've been skateboarding since about 1976 to my age now 57. My grandparents were in Newquay which is like the surf town.

That got me into skateboarding quite early because the surfers would bring back skate boards from their trips and I hit skate boarding before the big craze of 1970 in the UK.

The Plymouth zoo skatepark was the first skate park in Plymouth, behind Plymouth argyle football ground and it was built by the Chipperfield Circus family.

It was the largest skate park in Europe, to walk from one corner to the other would take you about 3 or 4 minutes as it was over a large area which used to be a zoo and then it was all closed down.

The zoo wasn't making money and the new thing for making money seemed



"The Graveyard Crew"

to be skateboards, so they built the skate park. Skateboarding was massive at the time, 77 / 78, everyone was rushing to build skateparks. There was about 35 / 40 skate parks of varying sizes and shapes all popped up at the same time, it was a craze.

They were popping up all over the place, there was a skate park in Winkfield, Surrey, with wooden ramps and stuff, it was built by the Billy Smarts Circus Family.

The Chipperfield Circus Family were on TV every boxing day in the 70's, they were real famous and they decided they were going to put their money into skateboards. People thought that would be around for a lot longer but insurance costs and injuries, they killed them down in a couple of years. People would leave their kids their all day and come back to find they were up the accident and emergency because they had an injury.

When the skate park first opened not all the zoo animals had left and there was a hippopotamus in a big mud pit and that was there for 2 or 3 weeks before they decided to get it moved on. Alongside one of the runs there was these big high sheds where the giraffes lived and still smelt, on people's birthdays we would give them the bumps and threw them into what was left of where the hippo used to live (laughs). When you would walk up the main walkway you would use the same kiosk and turn style that was there from the zoo, but 20 metres up the path there was like an aviary and there was still parrots that still lived there. They lived there for at least a year or two years during the skate park's reign.



At Plymouth skate park, I got in for free because I was a martial, I was on the skatepark team and my job was to stand around like a life guard a lot of the time. I had to watch and make sure that people wore their helmets, if they didn't have a helmet they had to hire one of these awful ugly helmets from our shop. When the skatepark first opened they had this thing with a magazine which was called Skateboard UK and it had a big readership, we had a couple of London guys, the peacock brothers and a roller skater called Tim Altic, he must be over 60 today.

They were like the London stars. They came down to ride the park with a photographer.

I remember once there was this page 3 girl for the daily express, a photographer came with her and they did a photograph of her laying out on the concrete as if they had fallen off a skateboard.

Like really cheesy 70's style press things. I once drew a little drawing to

*Photo of Richard Callan,
provided by Mark Lawer*

remind myself of the park and i've been back up there and there are little traces left.

Little bits of concrete sticking out through the grass.

Some people believe that the snake run and the walking stick run were buried intact.

A friend of mine went up there to trying digging to see if he could find anything but we never found anything, I think it was a myth. The thing with the skatepark is, from 78 was a fantastic year, all these people would try it. A lot of them came once or twice and didn't come back.

The numbers dwindled and they went down and down. By 79-81, we would pay the manager of the place who was more in charge of the animal sides of



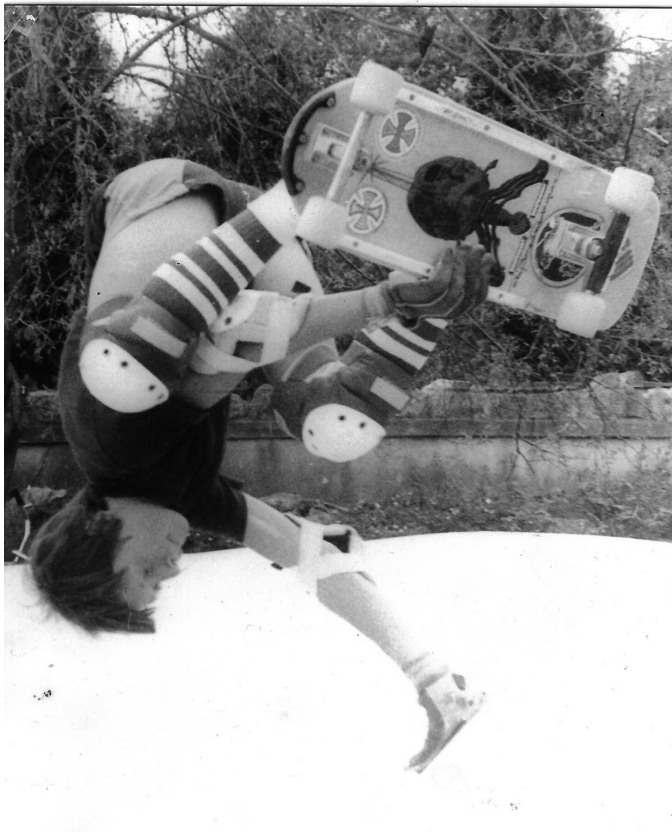
things, 50p a day and he would let us continue to skate and that went on for ages.

There was only about 6 of us who would actually turn up every Saturday morning but that was my favourite time skating in the park, I was progressing and learning. I was riding the full pipe everyday.

At that time (81), all the skate parks were dropping like flies. There was a magazine in 79 and it had the top 6 skateboarders in the UK around a funeral at a gravestone that said skating board is dead, it was like all crazes, they come to an end.

Throughout all my duration skateboarding, I have learnt that all good things come to an end and something else will come along that is just as good.

You can't really mourn the past. I believe that history is history, doesn't



matter if it was a month ago, a thousand years ago. I believe we all benefit from knowing our history and I think that skateboarders now have a history to tell and somebody in the UK needed to tell it.

“You can’t really mourn the past. I believe that history is history, doesn’t matter if it was a month ago, a thousand years ago.”

I come from a family of book writers. I guess my book writing doesn’t fall far from what my mum and dad did.

The first one I did with a friend, we used to write for a magazine together called skateboard.

That’s where it started for me, that was called skate 80’s. I did Snakes and Moguls which was easy with facebook and friends, they would all provide me with photographs.

You’d be surprised, it’s people greatest memories of growing up. The thing is, magazines come out, you read it and pass it on, it goes in the bin, it’s done.

With a book, it stays on the bookshelf. It’s something I’m really proud of.

The new skate park I like in a way, especially because it’s got a new snake run. it’s sort of like a homage to what we had at the beginning.

In 2018 when it opened I was like ‘oh wow’, here i am 34 years later skating in the snake run again in Plymouth.

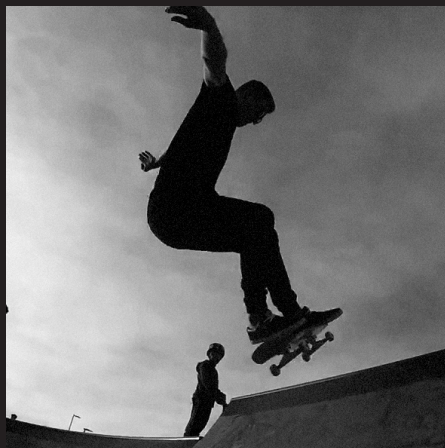
”



Mark “Trawler”

***From left to right:
Paul Squance, Trawler, Martyn Baker,
Bill Brain(manager), Dave Wilson
AKA “The Graveyard Crew”***

COMING NEXT ISSUE



NEW TRICKS GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS



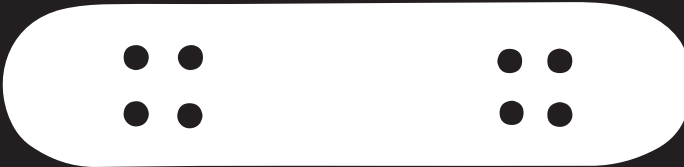
PRIME
primedelux.com

Prime originated in 2008 Plymouth UK by Co founder Nick Marker. We have been heavily involved in the local scene since 1990. Prime started up as an independent skateboard store in Plymouth. Soon after we formed Prime Skatepark Community Interest Company. Both companies are now currently operating alongside each other at 21a and 23 Commercial Road. COME VISIT US!

BIRRETTA
DECK *new*



ORIGINAL



Skateboard Oil for your Bearings



This is a fake Ad for a product that does not exist! It's very exciting! As not seen on TV! I have no idea why you are reading this, there are a lot of great stories in this magazine, go read those. I am just filler text to make this ad look likely. You won't find anything interesting here, you can skip the next few sentences as they will only waste your time. Ohhh you cannot look away, you are just too curious ah! Ok I will tell you a little secret... Once I met a cat that could speak! Yes I know, it is unbelievable. But it's what happened, I swear. Now I must go.

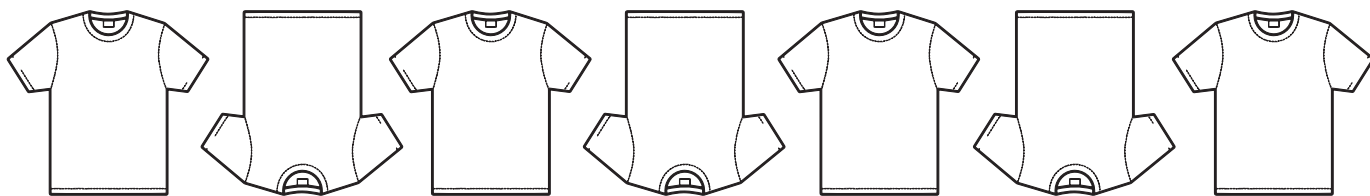
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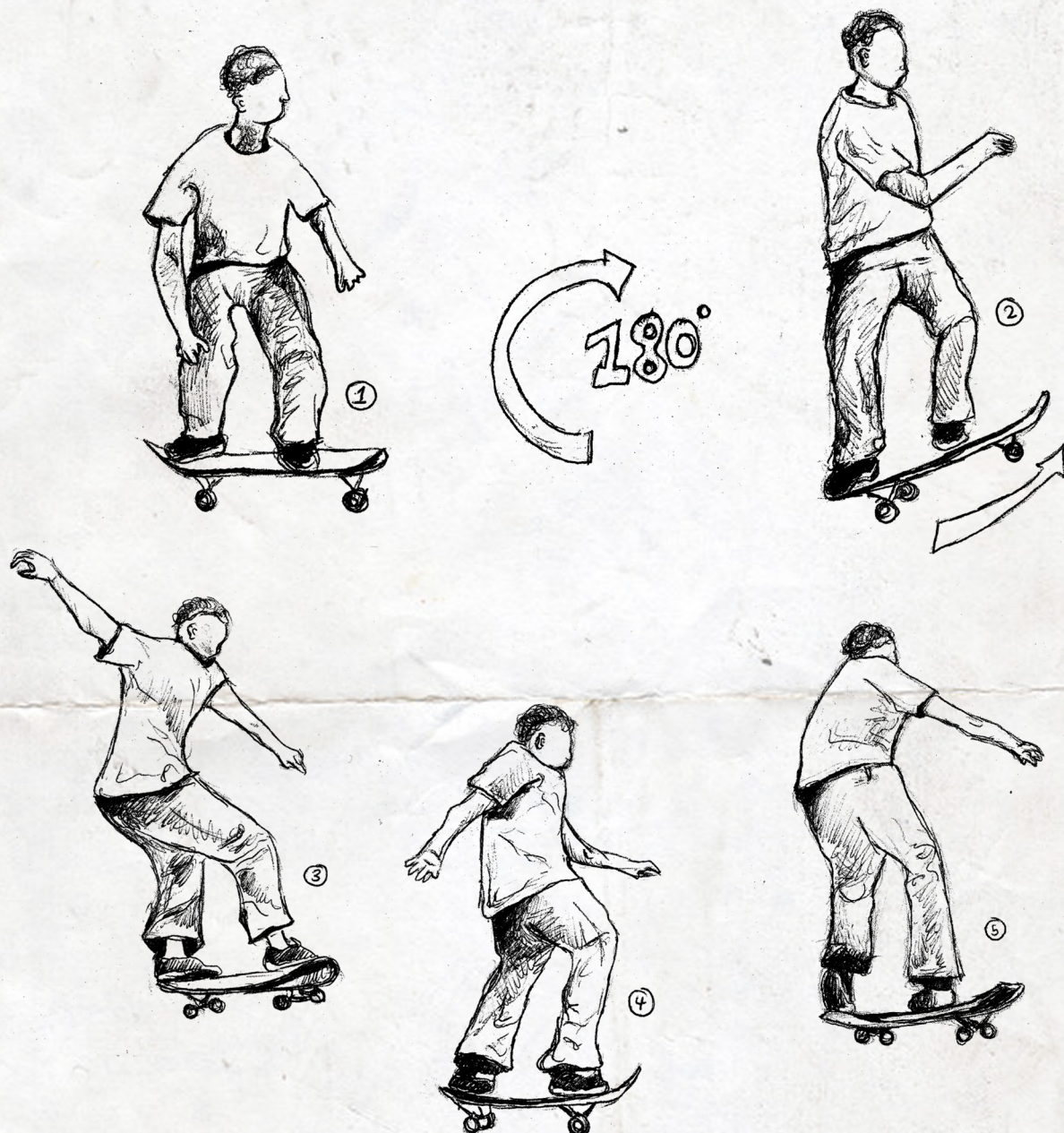
We found the Ancient Top-secret Super Foolproof Technique Tutorial

AND YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT!

THIS WEEK:

THE FRONTSIDE 180

THE ART OF SKATEBOARDING



The frontside 180

The frontside 180 trick is one of the most basic and beginner friendly. It is similar to the ollie. When doing this, you will be landing switch (with a different foot forward) so it may be best to practice feeling comfortable doing so first when you roll away.

Positioning is a key aspect of the trick. The back foot will be in the center of the tail and the front foot behind the bolts.

Tip: turn your head and shoulders whilst doing the trick. This is essential.

STEPS

1. ride and crouch down. Getting some speed going will help as you will have momentum
2. begin popping your head and shoulders: build up momentum with your shoulders by bending down and twisting your shoulders slightly to help spring yourself into the 180 motion when you pop and jump.

3. when you pop your board, push the tail with your back foot a bit forward to help make the 180 turn. You do not need to do the whole 180 while you are in the air

4. pop into ollie position, do all of these movements simultaneously to perform a clean trick

5. Land with your knees bent and ride away.

Photo by Alex Williams



Messages from Skaters



Hi,
I think the photos on Flickr are the only ones I have sadly - there should be 8? I have great memories of the park. I started skating, like most of us 70's kids, Christmas of 1977 after seeing Stacy Peralta riding a half pipe on Blue Peter. My family went to the same place in Devon, Hope Cove, every year for a month (we still do but not for a month unfortunately!). I think I had read about Plymouth Skatepark in Skateboard Magazine and was desperate to go so my dad took me that first trip. I remember being completely blown away by it, it was massive and looked just like the concrete parks in America, plus it seemed like every time I went it was blazing hot which added to the California vibe! It had the only full pipe in the country so that was a big deal back then.

MATT SEFTON

send us an email at:
skateparkcentralpark@
gmail.com

tell us your experiences,
your stories, send us
photos and videos!



One of the main things I remember was that every time I went (probably 3 or 4 times during that summer) it was almost completely deserted. Apart from me there couldn't have been more than 3 or 4 people there. The skating craze died off really quickly in the UK so there was only a hardcore of us who still skated and parks were closing almost as soon as they opened. I loved skating the "giraffe house" ramps but my favourite part of the park was the mogul bowl, basically a large area filled with mounds of concrete, probably 7 or 8 of them, that you could ride up and down forever. I've never seen any photos of the mogul or an aerial view of the park so if you come across any of them I'd love to see them.

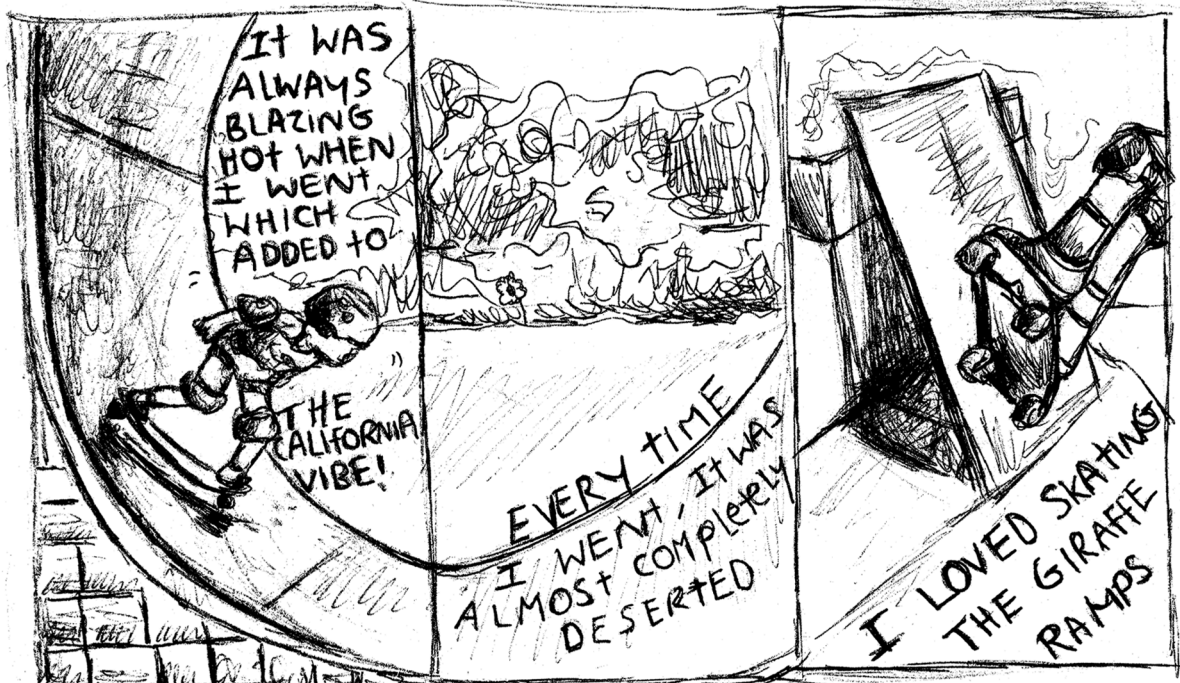


Anyway, I hope that helps. I'd love to see your completed project when it's done. Here's a photo of us a few years ago: l to r is Sean Goff, a pro skater in the 80's who's still going strong, myself with a broken arm that happened a couple of hours before the photo while skating, Mark Day from Barnstable and Trawler. Take care,

Matt









The Evolution of the Skateboard

THE 1960'S

America birthed the skateboard, as the concept of the skateboard came about in the 1950's where surfers came up with the idea of transferring the feeling of 'riding the wave' onto concrete. Many communities and manufacturers were in favour of this concept, and this led to such excitement and innovation of the skateboard in the 1960 after the first self-made produced skateboard was sold in Val-Surf, Hollywood.

Companies such as Makaha, Hobie and Jacks began to create different versions of skateboards and in 1963, Larry Stevenson from Makaha was known to be the one to produce the very first professional skateboard. This board was known as the 'Phil Edwards model' named after the surfer Phil Edwards. The components of this model were Chicago trucks, clay wheels and wooden deck shaped like a miniscule skateboard. The 1960s would not be complete without Gordan and Smith's 'Fibreflex board.' Made from 'Flexiglass, maple wood and epoxy' this board was the most successful skateboard amongst young people at the time. The concept and competition behind the design of these skateboards meant that what was once known as a toy, was now established as sports equipment.

As quickly did the boom come, would be the downfall of the skateboard. Parents within reason had become fearful of the quality of materials used in the construction of the design and had strong opinions on aspects such as the claylike wheels. People felt that it was not worth buying such items knowing that it could result in injury. Safety was priority and if the skateboard

were to become popular again, designs would need serious revamping.

In 1969,

Larry Stevenson made amendments to the design and created what was known as the kicktail, this allowed skaters to 'gain better tail leverage' when riding slopes and learn exciting new certain such as 360-degree spins. However, what was known as the second boom in skateboarding was in 1972. Frank Nasworthy created the urethane wheel, giving skaters the ability to ride quicker without the risk of injury. The soft, yet hard wheels, allowed versatility, allowing skaters to race easy within the streets and gave enough grip for wall riding.

One year on, Ron Bennet developed professional looking, high performance trucks. In comparison to the Chicago trucks made

for roller-skates back in the early 1960s, there was a lot more maneuverability in this upgrade, allowing the rider more height between the ground and skateboard. Thus, this led to the growth in skateboarding as a sport. People were now able to take this sport in new directions shown through the spaces that were used by skaters. These were exciting times, people would practice at every chance they could in available concrete space such as empty swimming pools, spillways or drainage ditches. Furthermore, the delayed development with the housing tracts in Hilly La Costa provided a luxury space for skaters to use for downhill and slalom racing.

Adaptions to the design of the skateboard now came from 4 different practices of skateboarding. These were freestyle, slalom, downhill and bowl or wall riding. Each practice required a specific skateboard to reach

professional level. In downhill riding, it was recommended to use a longboard without kicktails for stability. Whereas, due to the sharp turns in slalom riding, a shorter board was favored with narrow ends. Riders would look to Turner Summer Ski, who was given significant credit given to the novelties of the shape of the slalom board through the adaption of the cambred design.

With the rise of bowl/wall riding in the mid-1970s came the renovation of Larry Stevenson's kicktails, updated by Zephyr and Z-Flex so riders could perform better on steep terrain. New trends in skateboarding meant that a range of different styles of skateboards were produced. Suitably, manufacturers in California had designed the 'pig' board which was 10 inches in width. This board helped with the rider's strength and gave a good foothold when moving vertically in wall riding.



Photo by Alex Williams

Although skating was now established as a sport, first generation skateparks had to close due to the economy situation in America. This meant that there was significant loss in the skateboarding industry and many skateboard designs such as the 'Kryptonics synthetic board' became non-existent. Nevertheless, the rise of street culture in 1985 and 1990 led to the 3rd final boom in skateboarding which followed the comeback of vertical riding on wooden ramps. Then came the design of the 'popsicle' board. The board was 1977 bowl rider's in width, had a double kicktail with a concave deck surface, which allowed the skateboarder to shift in both environments, vertical and street riding as riders would start to use benches, stairs and railings to practice at the time.

From 1995, longboards became popular again, and as a result many manufacturers adapted old designs to give more of an option for riders. The late 90's / come early 2000s, came the rereleased designs of skateboard design from the 1970s, this left an imprint of nostalgia to the history of the skateboard. (Eg: Z-Flex Rocker)

TRADITIONAL SKATEPARKS IN CALIFORNIA

Santa Cruz, Napa, and Davis park were all established in the 90s for many different reasons. Many within the community argued that skateboarders were dangerous and harmful to pedestrians with how riders were 'destroying curbs, benches and planters.' In a way, the authorization of these parks was an act of compromise. Skaters in Napa had expressed a desire for a park as it had been banned downtown, the wish was that riders could have a legitimate place to build up specific skills. This was forwarded to the administrator of Napa and it was agreed only in reason skateboarding was banned in other public areas.

Napa park was founded in August 1992 which included a playground for young children, a picnic area for families, and a green area for parents to watch from a distance. Safety informed the style of courses added in each skate park, and the design was altered in a way that riders would not get injured. As a result, Napa did not add quick hastening areas or steep drops in their park. In an interview, skaters around the area had ranked Napa low in contrast to Santa Cruz and Davis due to how Napa had no advanced courses. However, when asked about what makes the parks stand out Napa was praised for the 'pyramid.' Santa Cruz was praised for its 'Snake Run' and Davis it is 'bowl.' Many skaters commented on how they enjoyed having these parks opening, as it gave them a community, people who shared common interests and the ability to form friendships.

Administrators suggested making changes

to the skatepark according to trends within the sport and space to bring in more of the public. At the time Davis wished to add in street features such as grind rails, steps and curbs. Napa wanted to renovate and add a rest room. Whereas, Santa Cruz wished to make the area bigger. Santa Cruz's intention behind the building of their skatepark was based on their assessment, clarifying the park was needed for the community. In 2001, Santa Cruz designated a site and developed a design where the skatepark would be part of a larger space which would attract people of all ages. Their park design included a playground for young children, a picnic area for families, with grassy areas so people could watch the skaters on a hot summer's day.

The reasons behind the creating of Davis park came from teenagers wanting a skatepark and the community wanting to protect their children from injury. Which meant that the design of the site was a vital part of the creation of the park as this kept them in one place, under close supervision. Also, Davis park was created in a secluded area but could be easily be accessed by teenagers. The area was surrounded by two fences, 8 feet tall to segregate the skaters from the onlookers. There was an additional fence within the 8-foot fence to segregate the inactive skaters from the active skaters.

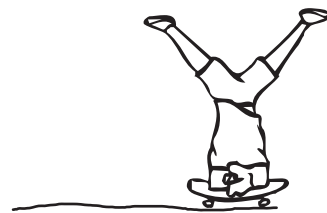


Photo by Alex Williams

SKATING THE WEB



Photos by The April Babies



It's also something I can continue getting better at. I love to learn new skills and being able to do so with skateboarding being the focus and being able to take the session home with me is just an added bonus. The reason skateboarding is so important to me is very similar, except that it has taught me many invaluable lessons in life. That 'failure' and 'progress' are the same thing. That you can achieve anything with enough determination. It's taught me to be humble. Not to mention that it's both a great form of exercise and meditation.

THE APRIL BABIES

“ The 'April Babies' crew existed in different forms long before our collective interest in skateboarding. We met back in the mid-00's through music when me, Jack Beck and Gordon MacKenzie started a band with a good mutual friend of ours. Gordon was already a skate rat and had won the 'King of Saltash trophy' twice in a row when we met him and was easily the gnarliest skateboarder any of us knew at the time.

I started skateboarding a while afterwards (around 2012) shortly after moving back to Plymouth from London, during the time we were recording our first EP as a band called 'Ragdoll' and I was living on a friends sofa. I met Jeverett a few years later and we started going hard and stacking Instagram clips daily. I had a baby in 2017 and decided to use the extra time at home to edit some of the footage we'd filmed on a borrowed DSLR.

Officially, April Babies was the 4 of us - me, Jack, Gordon & Jeverett although the overall goal has been to be inclusive and to celebrate and showcase all who skateboard. Locally, regionally and globally. Since starting, Jeverett has received his first pro model from a local brand called SCUK and has chosen to focus his energy on producing something a little closer to the 'core' values of skateboarding. Gordon's presence has always been hit and miss due to being a full time Dad and rad tattoo artist with a mortgage. So mainly me and Jack keep the channel going with a monthly podcast and other skateboarding videos along the way.

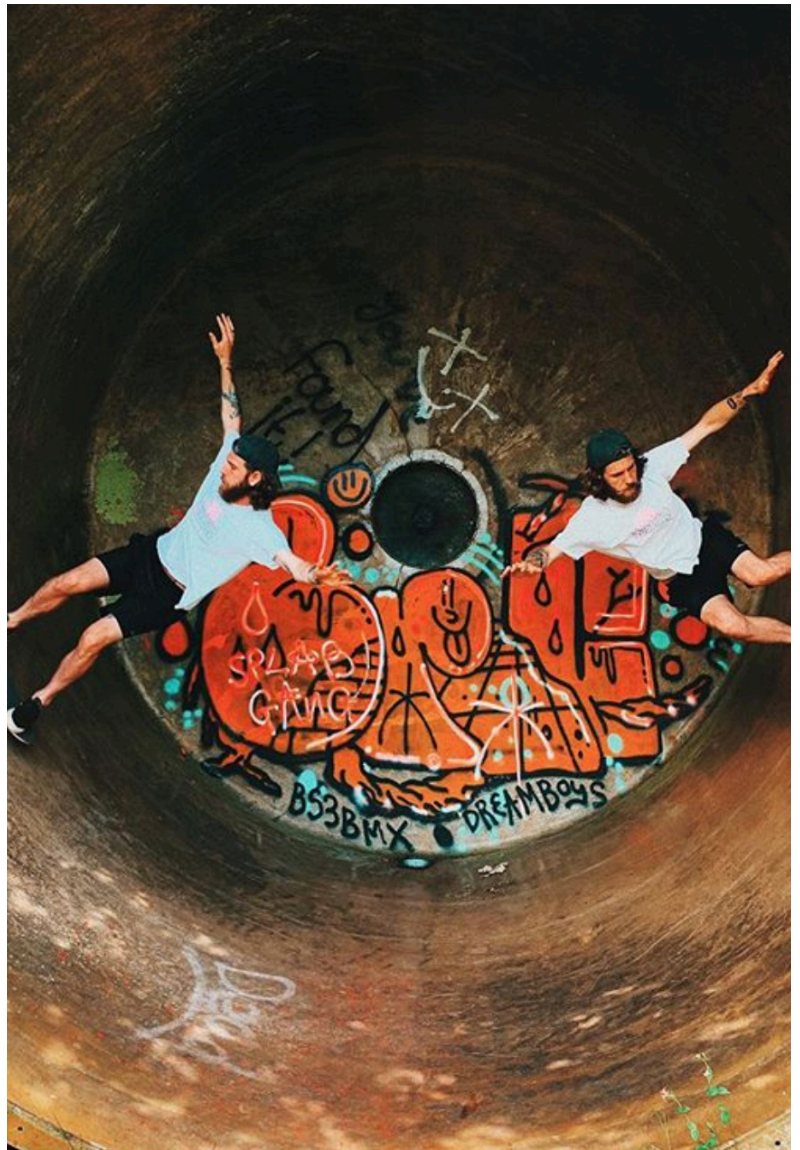
The reason April Babies is important to me is that it has remained constant throughout many changes over the past few years. It's an excuse to see the homies at least once a month. It's something to focus my energy on when I have spare time.



WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

I'm influenced mainly by my homies that skate. They all kill it in their own ways, all with different trick bags and styles. The homies are the reason for the best tricks you land as well as the worst slams you'll take. They're a part of the best memories you'll ever have from your time skateboarding. If we're talking skateboarding YouTubers that influence me then there is loads. Dale Decker is pretty rad. Chris Chann is also dope as hell. I love skateboarding because once you fall in love with it, it feels like you'll never fall out of love with it. The entire planet becomes a playground that the majority of people will never even see. You'll also have homies no matter where you find yourself if you've got your board with you.

I mainly skate in Plymouth because it's where I live. Central is my local and will forever be my favourite skatepark, even with all of it's... quirks. It's my go to spot almost always. I do feel like Plymouth has drawn the short straw a little in terms of street spots, but I do feel very lucky for the spots we do have. The reputation of a spot really adds something special when skating there. Civic for example feels magical when there's loads of heads and the vibes right or when you get something off white wall for the first time. The added difficulties to some of the gnarlier street spots we have just make it feel better when you do roll your trick away, or it'll remind you why you're not ready yet with a pretty rough tumble!



Central has a great vibe most of the time amongst the skaters. The busy days full of unsupervised children can be pretty frustrating, but it's just part of the game and something I don't think can be escaped no matter what skatepark you go to.

Thank for your time, anybody who would like to see what we do please search 'April Babies' on YouTube and remember to subscribe! Big up to all my local homies, SWP crew, YTSkate Crew and all the other wonderful people we've had the pleasure of meeting thanks to this little project we jumped into.

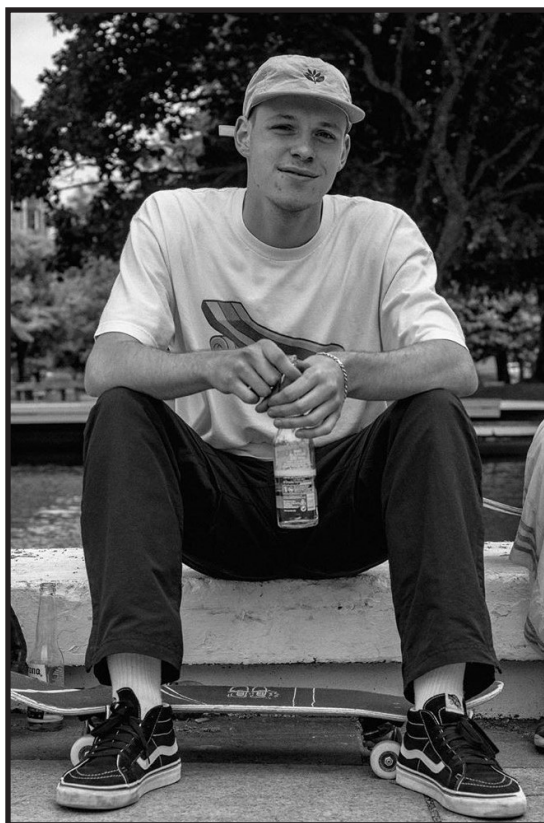
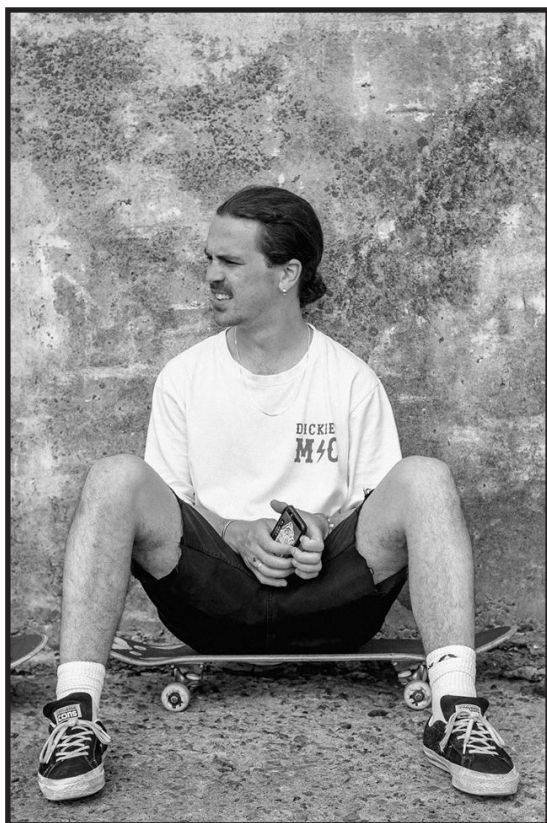
Peace and love,

”

AB

Keep an eye on

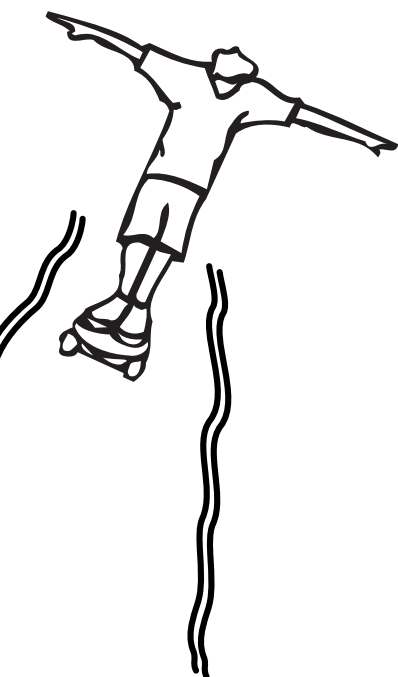
Photos by [@jmarvisuals](#)



Him!

With a degree in photography, @jmarvisuals's work predominantly focuses on UK street culture, including documenting the local skate scene and community in Plymouth. The majority of his work features portraits shot on b/w medium format or 35mm film, creating a raw and authentic aesthetic. He describes how he commonly skates in Civic Centre, although, at times visits central park skate park during the evenings when the most dedicated skaters are active.

Check out his portfolio on this new revolutionary platform online and on cellphones called INSTGRAM.



We Asked a Guy

WE ASKED A GUY TO TAKE SOME PHOTOS WITH A DISPOSABLE CAMERA THAT WE GAVE HIM

Hector

I've had a skateboard since I was really young so the idea of skating was always there but I didn't properly start until I realized a couple of my mates were into it as well. I started going to Central park the moment I got into Plymouth for university, so like end of 2018. The environment is usually pretty calm and friendly if you go at the right times. There is sometimes hostility between the skaters and scooter riders, but that happens everywhere.





All the skaters chat and get along, even if they don't know each other. I have made friends there, but I only ever see them at the skatepark. I don't often see them anywhere else or have much contact with them other than "fancy a skate?". I feel it's very important for young and old people. It's a great place to relax and enjoy doing what you love, be it skating bmxing or anything else. It's great to get away from all the stress of uni and just get into your zone.



the Star of Tomorrow

Ophelia is an avid 7 year old skater, she is an ambassador for a Canadian Charity called "skateboards for hope" and is sponsored by an American company called "Carter skateboards". She has a big following on her instagram @opheliaskatesplymouth where she posts short clips of her tricks, mostly at Prime skate park.

From what age did you start skating and what inspired you to do this?

I started skating when I was 4, but wasn't allll the time. Mummy says I saw a tiny micro skateboard in a toy shop when I was 2, and REALLY wanted it. Ever since then I wanted to learn to skate.

How often do you do it?

I skate every week at Prime, sometimes twice, but I practice everyday at home. I make sure I do 15 shuvs a day so I don't loose the trick!

Do you feel you have improved a lot since you first started?

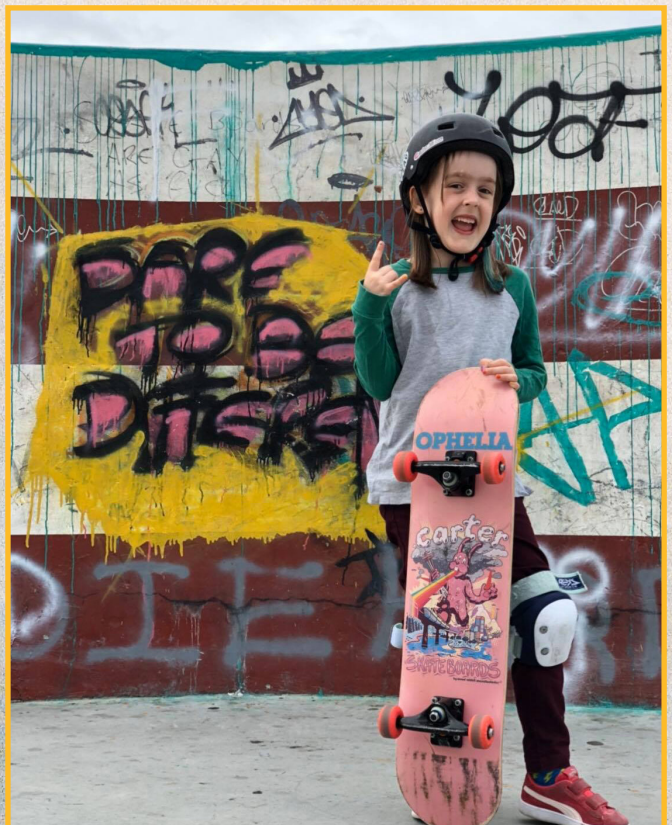
YES! I have lots of memories of me falling off a LOT, and not being able to drop in. Now I can drop in from 8 1/2 foot ramps, frontside rock and roll, and lots of other things I could NEVER do before.

How does it make you feel when you skate? why?

Skating makes me feel really strong and really happy. You get to learn new things and you get a really good feeling when you land a new trick or do a new bit of the park you couldn't do before. You feel really proud of yourself, and all your friends cheer you.

Do you enjoy skating in central park and why?

I like going to Central Park when it's really early in the morning and it's empty. I like doing the roll ins, doing fire crackers on the stairs, and when I'm bigger I want to Ollie them!



How different is it to skating in prime and other places?

It's a lot busier at Central Park. Definitely more scooter riders. And it's concrete and other places I skate are usually wood as they're inside.

How often do you visit central park? have you made any friends whilst there?

I don't really go a whole lot, but when I do go I always have fun. I haven't made any new friends there, but I do sometimes see friends I have made in other skateparks. It's easy to talk to people when you both skate because you have lots to talk about and can help each other out with tricks and things. When I have been in the afternoons, some of the older boys on scooters swear at me and frighten me a bit, but then I drop in and do a trick and they leave me alone.

What are your favourite skate tricks? Any that you feel really proud that you can do?

My most favourite tricks to do are doing big drop ins, but I want to get bigger ones. I love doing shuvits and rock and rolls too. Oh and 50-50 grinds!

Do you have any skate inspirations, like people or magazines?

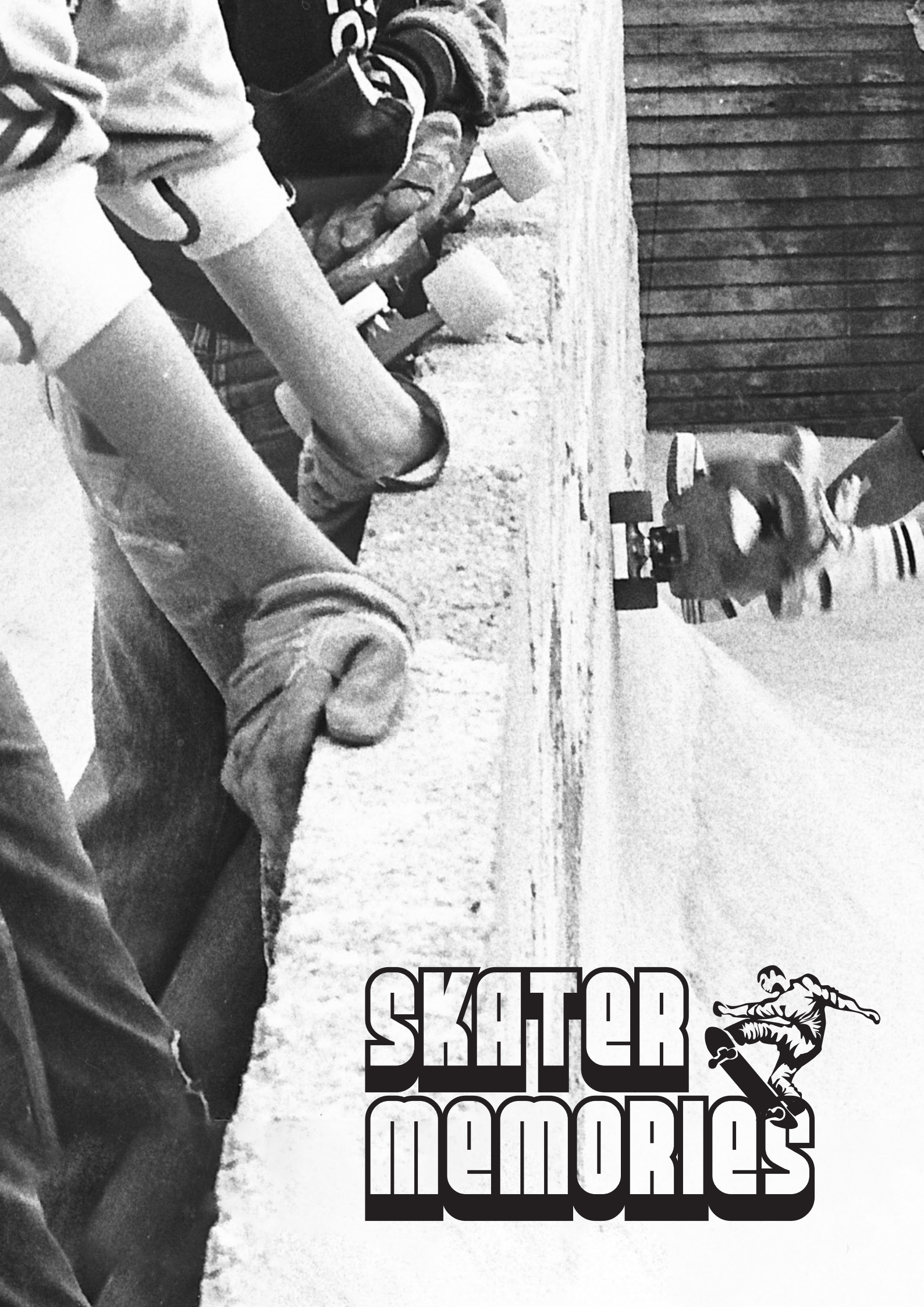
Lots of people inspire me to skate. My best friend Ash Parker, Roxana Howlett, Lola T, Betty Esperanza my skate fairy Godmother from Canada, and all of my skate mates who help me up and cheer me on.

Do you think this is something you want to pursue in the future when you're older? what are your goals?

YESYESYESYES! I never want to stop skating. Unless I don't have any legs then I might have to. But when I'm big I want to be a skate teacher and help loads of people not be afraid to try skating. Actually I want to be a skate teacher-artist-mummy!



Photos from her Instagram account, @opheliaskates



SKATER MEMORIES





Martyn Baker

Opening Day of the zoo skate park...was the middle of the week for some reason so I took the day off school, rocked up and was told we had to wear these stupid helmets to promote safety. Sounded like bollocks to me but I was more interested in riding this bad boy. If you weren't scared standing in this 20ft concrete pipe for the first time then you were lying, no one was quite sure how you rode a full pipe but then someone mentioned that you needed to do a "Fakey" to get going.

Not difficult if you were a good street skater but impossible if not. I came home for "me tea" and my mother said "ooh, you're on the front page of the local paper (The Evening Herald). Went back to school the next day, a newly minted celebrity (or so I thought) and was immediately summoned to the headmasters office to explain my egregious absence and ended up with detention for a week.





Photos by Alex Williams of Martyn





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